



95TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE (AIRBORNE)

FACT SHEET

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CIVIL AFFAIRS

...arguably the most important military component of the struggle against violent extremists is not the fighting we do ourselves, but how well we help prepare our partners to defend and govern themselves.

--Secretary of Defense Gates (July 31, 2009, Washington Post interview)

Mission of the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne)

The 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) organizes, trains, equips, and deploys forces worldwide to conduct civil affairs operations to reduce and/or mitigate civil vulnerabilities leveraged by state and non-state actors for legitimacy and influence over relevant populations, in any environment, in support of Combatant Commanders and United States Ambassadors.

Overview of Civil Affairs in Military Operations

95th Civil Affairs Brigade Soldiers enable military commanders and U.S. ambassadors to improve relationships with various stakeholders in a local area to meet the objectives of the U.S. government. 95th Civil Affairs Brigade teams work with U.S. Department of State country teams, government and non-governmental organizations at all levels and with local populations in peaceful, contingency and hostile environments.

95th Civil Affairs Brigade units may rapidly deploy to remote areas with small villages, as well as to larger population centers in more than 20 countries around the world. They help host nations assess the needs of an area, bring together local and non-local resources to ensure long-term stability, and ultimately degrade and defeat violent extremist organizations and their ideologies. They may be involved in disaster prevention, management, and recovery, and with human and civil infrastructure assistance programs.

95th Civil Affairs Brigade Soldiers are Soldiers first, but are adept at working in foreign environments and conversing in one of about 20 foreign languages with local stakeholders. Brigade teams may work for months or years in remote areas of a host nation. Their low profile and command structure allow them to solidify key relationships and processes, to address root causes of instability that adversely affect the strategic interests of the United States.

95th Civil Affairs Brigade as a Military Force Multiplier

Civil Affairs became an Army active component career field for officers and a military occupational specialty for enlisted Soldiers in 2007. Civil Affairs has often been viewed as an adjunct military capability, used to quarantine civilian populations before and during military engagements or to re-establish civil authority and resume normal societal activities, after a nation's military capabilities have been defeated.

Today, while modern technologies have vastly improved the reach and destructive power of military forces, the same technologies have also accelerated the globalization of nations and societies. Military power, in new and redefined forms, can be more readily used de-stabilize U.S. strategic interests in a world challenged by slow and fast-moving disasters of human and natural origins.





Conflicting ideologies and economic inequalities in late-developing nation-states, combined with modern military technologies, have fostered regions of instability throughout the world. “Soft power,” the use of civil affairs in military operations, has become increasingly important to address root causes and destabilizing forces in late-developing nations, threatening the strategic interests of the United States and its allies.

95th Civil Affairs Brigade History and Growth

Originally constituted in Aug. 1945 as the 95th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Military Government Group, the first iteration of the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade helped Japan transition from wartime to a peacetime society, before it was inactivated in Kurume, Japan in June 1946.

Re-activated in Oct. 1948 as the 95th Military Government Group at Fort Bragg, N. Carolina, it served during the Korean War before it was again inactivated in Pusan, Korea in Oct. 1951. After its allotment to the Regular Army in 1954, the 95th Civil Affairs Group, based at Camp Gordon, Georgia, assisted in setting up a refugee center at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey after the 1956 Hungarian Revolt. It also supported the 82nd Airborne Division in the Dominican Republic in 1965.

In July 1971, the 95th Civil Affairs Group returned to Fort Bragg to join the John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance (CMA) until its inactivation in June 1974. Re-designated as a brigade in March 2006, the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade was activated on March 16, 2007, including soldiers from the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, then the Army's only active duty civil affairs battalion.

When al-Qaida terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, the Army's only active-duty Civil Affairs force consisted of a single battalion of about 200 Soldiers, serving mostly as a bridging force for follow-on Civil Affairs reserve units designed to support general purpose Army forces in conventional land wars.

As of June 2011, the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade consists of more than 1,200 Soldiers, including four battalions, the 91st, 96th, 97th, and 98th Civil Affairs Battalions, each with five civil affairs companies. The brigade is tasked to support Department of Defense Special Operations Command task forces and the five U.S. geographic combatant commands. The 95th CA Bde (A) is currently forming its fifth battalion, the 92nd Civil Affairs Battalion, and adding one additional Civil Affairs company for each of its battalions by 2012.



Revised 1 June 2011